

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 73

By Stevens

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dresden Elementary School upon being named a winner of the State Collaborative on Reforming Education (SCORE) Prize.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of the General Assembly pay tribute to those educational institutions that, through unflagging commitment to academic excellence, have earned special acclaim and recognition; and

WHEREAS, Dresden Elementary School in Weakley County is one such exemplary institution that was recently recognized as the winner of the fourth annual State Collaborative on Reforming Education (SCORE) Prize; and

WHEREAS, the SCORE Prize is a very selective and distinguished honor that is presented to an elementary, middle, and high school, along with one school district in Tennessee, that do outstanding work in raising student achievement in spite of rising expectations; and

WHEREAS, SCORE is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that works with state and local governments to encourage sound policy decisions in public education and to advance innovative reform on a statewide basis; and

WHEREAS, upon announcing the winners, SCORE Chairman and former U.S. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist said, "The SCORE Prize is one of those unique moments when we applaud and lift up Tennessee schools, school districts, and their communities for their work to raise student academic achievement"; and

WHEREAS, as the winner of the SCORE Prize for being a leader in student learning, Dresden Elementary School was awarded \$10,000; and

WHEREAS, Dresden Elementary School serves approximately 450 students in Weakley County; over the past year, the school has shown strong growth, particularly in math and science, and has three-year Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) proficiency rates that meet or exceed the state average in math, reading, and science; and

WHEREAS, SCORE Prize finalists were chosen by a two-step process; the first step consisted of a weighted criteria selection process that set benchmarks for Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System (TVAAS) growth and TCAP improvement, and awarded bonus points for ACT college-readiness benchmark rates and college-going rates, among others. The second step consisted of site visits to the finalist schools to document the policies and practices that have enabled the schools and districts to make significant gains in student achievement; and

WHEREAS, their school's selection as a SCORE Prize winner is a tremendous source of pride for Principal Michael Laughrey, Assistant Principal Melanie Needham, the administration, teachers, students, and parents of the Dresden Elementary School community, as well as for the citizens of Weakley County; and

WHEREAS, the dedication to academic excellence demonstrated by all the fine individuals affiliated with Dresden Elementary School is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we recognize and commend the students, the principal, and the faculty of Dresden Elementary School on receiving the prestigious SCORE Prize and extend to them our best wishes for every continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.